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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/772,574	02/05/2004	Ronald G. Thieman	70026260-0002-103	2255
54243	7590	02/16/2006	EXAMINER	
WOODARD, EMHARDT, MORIARTY, MCNETT & HENRY LLP 111 MONUMENT CIRCLE SUITE 3700 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204-5137				DESAI, HEMANT
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		3721		

DATE MAILED: 02/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/772,574	THIEMAN, RONALD G.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Hemant M. Desai	3721

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 84-86 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 84-86 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 84-86 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(E) as being anticipated by Belmont et al. (6327754).

Belmont et al. disclose a method and apparatus for manufacturing a flexible recloseable container, comprising: providing a pair of inter-lockable fastener strips (14, fig. 3a), a web of flexible film (50, fig. 3a), and a plurality of sliders (12, fig. 3a), placing the plurality of sliders on the pair of inter-lockable fastener strips (the sliders are placed on the fastener strip, see fig. 4), fusing together a portion of the fastener strips at a plurality of locations (see col. 5, lines 10-24) and attaching the inter-lockable fastener strips to the web of flexible film after placing the plurality of sliders and after the fusing at a plurality of locations, which meets all the claimed limitations. Belmont et al. disclose to provide the sliders (12) with the inter-lockable fastener strips (14, see figs. 4 and 6); therefore Examiner interprets as sliders are placed on the fastener strips (14). Belmont

et al. disclose to fuse (end termination or stop) the ends at the ends of the fasteners (col. 5, lines 10-13, 16-25).

Regarding claims 85 and 86, Belmont et al. disclose an apparatus for subsequent attachment to a flexible, recloseable bag having a width, comprising a pair of interlockable fastener strips (14) having a length, and a plurality of sliders (12) coupled to the fastener strips, wherein the fastener strips are fused together at a first plurality of positions along the length (col. 5, lines 10-13, 16-25), each fused position being spaced apart from adjacent fused positions by about the width of a bag (see figs. 3a, 6 and 10), the fastener strips being notched (63, figs. 4, 6 and 7) at a second plurality of positions along the length (see figs. 6 and 10), each notched position being spaced apart from adjacent said notched positions by about the width of a bag.

Regarding claim 86, Belmont et al. disclose an apparatus for subsequent attachment to flexible film for making a recloseable bag having a width, comprising a pair of interlockable fastener strips (14) having a length, and a plurality of sliders (12) coupled to the fastener strips, wherein the fastener strips are fused together (see col. 5, lines 10-24) at a plurality of positions along the length, each fused position being separated from adjacent fused positions by about the width of a bag.

### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 84-86 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hemant M. Desai whose telephone number is (571) 272-4458. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 AM-5:30 PM, Mon-Thurs..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached on (571) 272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3721

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Hemant M Desai*

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Examiner  
Art Unit 3721

HMD

*Stephen F. Gerrity*  
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Primary Examiner